

Books

Groundwater Contamination in the United States

V. I. Pye, R. Patrick, and J. Quarles, University of Pennsylvania Press, Philadelphia, xxi + 315 pp., 1983, \$35 cloth, \$14.95 paperback.

Reviewed by John B. Robertson

Seldom has the sociotechnical community been more ready for a broad overview on an environmental issue than it is currently for a book on the subject of groundwater contamination in the United States. Many individuals, organizations, and institutions are asking: How much of our nation's groundwater resources are contaminated? Is our groundwater contamination problem getting worse and when is the longterm prognosis? What are the most significant causes of groundwater contamination and what are the most promising cures?

Groundwater Contamination in the United States addresses these and related questions but unfortunately does not provide very satisfying answers. However, this shortcoming is due primarily to insufficient data available for making such analyses—a point that the book brings out clearly.

The 14 chapters of the book are comprehensive in subject matter, including an executive summary; general groundwater hydrology; sources, extent, and severity of groundwater contamination; effects of contamination on public health; groundwater monitoring; remedial actions, protection strategies and aquifer classifications; and regulatory aspects. This broad range of topics, however, prohibits treating any one of them comprehensively; virtually every chapter subject is amenable to a separate treatise alone. Nevertheless, it does provide a good introduction to the state of knowledge and to most major references.

The study is based primarily on a review of easily available information, plus some new information solicited primarily from state agencies. It is the first time most of this information has been compiled, summarized, and analyzed in a single source. The text is generally clear and readable and relatively free of typographical errors. An irritating shortcoming is the misuse of clichés, understatement, and unsubstantiated generalizations, such as: "Pesticides have been found in ground waters in Arizona, California, New York, and elsewhere," and "Many products produced by our society are difficult to dispose of without harming the environment." A general weakness throughout the book is the liberal use of statements of "fact," data, and conclusions without proper reference to their source. This together with some serious inaccuracies, discussed below, tend to weaken the book's credibility. A typical unreferenced statement is, "In 1980, 88.5 billion gallons of ground water were used in the United States per day, and 68% of this was used for irrigation."

Other general criticisms include the lack of scales on any of the maps, and parts of the book appear to have been hastily prepared with inadequate understanding or literature research.

Although the executive summary (chapter 1) tends to gloss over the most important facts and information, the conclusions reached are reasonably complete, accurate, and justified. Chapter 2, "Options for Dealing with the Contamination of Groundwater," also tends to be too general and shallow. It would have been greatly improved by including some case histories. The portion of this chapter that addresses radioactive waste (page 27) is highly inaccurate, misleading, and incomplete. For example, the book states that no method has been agreed upon for disposal of high-level radioactive wastes, when, in fact, the United States and other countries have decided upon deep geologic disposal in mined repositories.

Chapter 3, "The Groundwater Resource," also conveys significant misconceptions and errors. Some typical examples are: "An unconfined or water table aquifer contains water under atmospheric pressure," (water below the water table is, of course, under pressure greater than atmospheric); "Movement of ground water occurs . . . along lines of hydraulic head" (movement of ground water occurs along stream lines, normal to lines of equal hydraulic head). The chapter implies that no good aquifers occur deeper than 2500 feet (750 m) below land surface, when, in fact, the western United States has many such deep aquifers. The chapter also fails to mention or emphasize the power and use of simulation models in studying groundwater flow systems.

Chapter 4 addresses the topic of "Groundwater Contamination" in a fairly general and acceptable manner. Some notable technical errors occur on pages 50-51, describing sorption and other processes affecting mobility of contaminants. The authors have confused the relationship of a contaminant's solubility with its mobility, have misstated the nature and reversibility of sorption reactions, and have inaccurately portrayed the significance of the octanol-water partitioning coefficient in assessing contaminant mobility in ground water. Table 4-3, listing components of various industrial wastes, is oversimplified, incomplete, and somewhat inaccurate. This chapter inadequately addresses the significance of contamination from sewage leakage, from fuel tank leakage, and the volatile chlorinated organic solvent sources. Like chapter 2, chapter 4 reflects major misunderstanding of nuclear waste classification, contamination, and disposal issues. For instance, it is stated in this chapter that contamination from low-level waste disposal sites is less well documented than disposal from high-level storage sites, when, in fact, the reverse is true; there are several documented cases of groundwater contamination (generally minor) from low-level waste sites.

An attempt is made in chapter 5 to analyze the "Severity of Groundwater Contamination" by reviewing a few semiquantitative estimates, made previously by others, of the area or volume of shallow aquifers potentially contaminated. The chapter fails to emphasize the severe limitations of these estimates and the fact that they do not include nonpoint sources of contamination (such as agriculture) which might account for more contamination than all the point sources.

Chapter 6 is a good review of information available on "The Effects of Groundwater Contamination on Public Health." As one might expect, there is evidence of many individual health problems from contaminated ground water, but the bottom line is that the data are very inadequate to make any nationwide assessment or appraisals; one of the more important statements in the book expresses this point superbly: "The lack of comprehensive nationwide surveys of the extent and severity of groundwater contamination and the paucity of groundwater contaminants that have actually been tested for carcinogenicity make it impossible to assess the national risk of drinking groundwater." Some good information is again contained in chapter 7.

The Geographical Extent of Groundwater Contamination. The chapter summarizes previous data compiled by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as well as new information gathered for this book from surveys of 10 states. The depth of analysis is, however, disappointingly shallow and inconclusive. It would appear possible and useful to extract some projections, extrapolations, and estimates, particularly from the rather comprehensive New Jersey data, on the general extent and distribution of anthropogenic contaminants in at least some large-scale environments.

Chapter 8, "Monitoring the Quality of Groundwater," is a brief, general discussion with little usefulness to actual situations. Although it adequately presents general steps and approaches to monitoring, it fails to emphasize one of the most fundamental and important aspects of monitoring—understanding the flow system. It also fails to mention the importance of collecting ambient back-

ground data; the uses of surface and borehole geophysics in monitoring; and the application of soil gas sampling or "sniffing" techniques in monitoring.

"Remedial Actions and Rehabilitation of Aquifers" is the subject of chapter 9. Although the discussion adequately mentions most of the commonly known techniques, it fails to mention one of the most important and practical treatment methods for volatile contaminants—simple aeration. The chapter also fails to point out that microbiological decomposition treatment methods have been demonstrated to be viable commercially and are currently available from at least two or three private companies. The importance of computer simulation techniques to analyze and evaluate potential remedial action options should also have been discussed in this chapter. Groundwater protection strategies and aquifer classification concepts are discussed in chapters 10 and 11. Most of the discussion centers around the "dead horse" of the EPA's 1980 proposed groundwater protection strategy, which has since been withdrawn and is currently being totally redefined.

Although it seems inappropriate to focus so much attention on a dead issue, there is some good discussion of the pros and cons of such strategies and their potential problems and limitations. The book presents a good review of the widely varying approaches by various states to aquifer classification, reflecting the diversity in philosophies and priorities on this issue from state to state.

Chapters 12, 13, and 14 are a review of existing federal statutes and state and local measures dealing with groundwater quality as well as proposed regulations. Although this provides a useful general review and summary of federal statutes, there is a significant shortcoming in the omission of regulations dealing with nuclear wastes, such as the Low-Level Waste Management Act of 1980 and the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982. There also appears to be some redundancy in chapters 11 and 13.

Despite serious shortcomings and misconceptions, this book does contain a large amount of useful information available in no other single text; it should serve as a handy and useful reference to technical managers, administrators, and policy makers dealing with the issue of groundwater contamination. However, it should not be considered authoritative without referral to the primary source references. For the uninformed reader, there can be a danger of gaining an incorrect perception of how groundwater flow systems function, of how contaminants actually behave in groundwater, and of the significance of current and future groundwater contamination problems.

John B. Robertson is with the U.S. Geological Survey, Reston, VA 22092.

Geochemistry of Sedimentary Ore Deposits

J. Barry Maynard, Springer-Verlag, New York, xi + 308 pp., 1983, \$29.80.

Reviewed by Arthur W. Rose

Ore deposit geochemists and economic geologists have in the past directed most of their attention toward hydrothermal deposits, but it is becoming increasingly apparent that sedimentary deposits are of key future importance because of their size and other favorable characteristics. In addition, many deposits formerly considered hydrothermal are now recognized as sedimentary or as having important sedimentary affiliations. *Geochemistry of Sedimentary Ore Deposits* is the first to summarize and discuss the geochemistry of these important deposits, and it is therefore a welcome addition to the literature.

The definition for "sedimentary ore deposits" adopted in this book is "formed by sedimentary processes." Maynard therefore includes Mississippi Valley lead-zinc ores (formed by hot sedimentary brines) and volcanogenic sulfides (deposited on the sea floor) as well as iron formation and sedimentary copper ores. The emphasis is on chemical sedimentation, so that placers are not included, nor are nonmetallics such as evaporites. The coverage thus encompasses metallic deposits formed by syngenetic and diagenetic processes, plus epigenetic ores formed by sedimentary brines or hydrothermal fluid at the sea floor.

The main coverage of the book is divided by elements into seven chapters. For most elements or groups of elements sections discuss classification, mineralogy, geochemistry (with numerous new stability diagrams), petrography, vertical sequence (stratigraphy), sedimentary environment, and tectonics, and theories of origin. Some chapters include discussions of specific districts, and others cover modern deposits.

Another emphasis is on stable isotope studies. The book includes good discussions and extensive references on studies of C, S, and O isotope studies in sedimentary ores. Perhaps the most valuable features are Maynard's comments, interpretations, and research suggestions regarding applications of isotopes to determine rates of deposition, sources of components, and depositional environment of ores.

As an example of coverage, chapter 2 on iron divides discussion into banded iron formation and oolitic ironstones. As in other chapters, extensive tables list chemical data for various types and facies of iron ore as well as common rocks and iron minerals, and include discussion of rare earth data for iron ores. Aluminosilicate iron formations (relatively small deposits with an obvious volcanic association) are seen to have higher Ni, Cu, and Zn and lower Mn than Superior-type iron formation (extensive, with stable shelf association), and at least Archæan Aluminosilicate types have positive Eu anomalies, whereas Superior types have negative Eu anomalies. Eh-pH relations for a variety of facies are presented with emphasis on the importance of metastable initial precipitates like Fe(OH) and FeS (mackinawite), later transformed by extensive diagenetic changes and low-grade metamorphism. For Superior-type iron formations, the light δ³⁴S in siderites suggests derivation of some C from decomposing organic matter; the variable oxidation state and mineralogy (facies) are attributed to varying amounts of original matter in the newly deposited sediment, after Drever (1974). Tectonic and sedimentologic environments are discussed, using stratigraphic relations, petrography, fossils, facies changes, and mineral composition. In origin, Maynard essentially follows Drever (1974) in attributing the Superior-type ores to a stratified ocean with high Fe²⁺ and SiO₂ below the thermocline, and precipitation of ferrous minerals where deep water welled up and oxidized on the shelves. Difficulties explaining S and P contents are noted.

For ironstones like the Clinton ores of eastern U.S. or the Jurassic deposits of France and Great Britain, no clear method of origin is indicated, but many hypotheses are evaluated, and suggestions are made for productive research, such as isotopic studies of δ³⁴S and δ¹⁸O in iron minerals. The coverage of literature is very extensive and broad, so the material should be valuable to researchers contemplating work on the subject.

Chapter 3 covers Cu and Ag deposits, which provide 25-30% of world Cu production. Types of Cu deposits include enriched supergene sulfide, and deposits in sandstone and shale (White Pine, Michigan), red-bedded evaporites (Cerro, Oklahoma), and "concretionary" deposits of the Kupferschiefer and central African Copperbelt. Although deposits and their sedimentary chemistry and environments are described, possible processes of formation are only suggested. Deposits of Al and Ni formed by residual weathering are covered in chapter 4. The lack of good explanations for Al mineralogy (gibbsite, boehmite, diasporite) is emphasized, along with the lack of knowledge of the stability of the Ni minerals in Ni hosts. Chapter 5 covers manganese deposits and chapter 6 uranium deposits, including those in quartz pebble conglomerates, Proterozoic unconformity-related, black shales, sandstones and calcareous. Lead and zinc deposits (chapter 7) are divided into carbonate-hosted Mississippi Valley Alpine, and Irish base metal types, and the clastic-hosted (Sullivan and MacArthur River) types. Volcanic-sedimentary ores (chapter 8) are discussed in a short chapter divided into those on divergent plate boundaries (Red Sea, Cyprus) and convergent boundaries (Kuroko).

Taken overall, this book is most valuable for its extensive literature coverage (750 references, up to 1981), wide disciplinary scope (ore deposits, sedimentology, petrography, isotopes, aqueous geochemistry, and mineralogy), innovative comments on processes, and suggestions for further research. It is also usable as a text or readings in specialized courses in mineral deposits and sedimentary geochemistry, but is weak in clear discussions of processes and origin, as well as the more physical and economic aspects of deposits. In any case, it is clearly the best review and synthesis of its kind and will be valuable to students and researchers on that basis.

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Cover. During the past 10 years the U.S. Geological Survey has carried out teleseismic P-wave residual experiments in several geothermal and volcanic areas to detect and delineate magma bodies and to model the deep structure of these areas. The enclosed figure shows the locations of the P-wave residual experiments. Shaded areas represent approximate regions covered by the seismic networks used in these experiments. Lines are profiles of seismic stations. Names of volcanic features studied using the networks and profiles are indicated. Data from 2-dimensional networks yield 3-dimensional velocity models, whereas data from linear profiles yield 2-dimensional velocity models. The aperture of the seismic array determines the depth sampled. (Figure courtesy of H. M. Iyer, U.S. Geological Survey, M.S. 77, 945 Middlefield Rd., Menlo Park, CA 94025.)

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POSTDOCTORAL APPOINTMENT IN ANALYTICAL, SEPARATION OR RADIOCHEMISTRY

The Isotope Geochemistry group of the Los Alamos National Laboratory is seeking candidates for a postdoctoral appointment in analytical, separation or radiochemistry.

This opportunity will include participation in a solar neutrino experiment [Science 216, 51 (1982)] with involvement in separation and purification of trace quantities of technetium from large quantities of molybdenite. Experience in wet chemical separation is required.

The Laboratory, one of the nation's foremost scientific research organizations, is operated by the University of California for the U.S. Department of Energy. Our location in the mountains of northern New Mexico offers an uncrowded lifestyle with ample recreational activities.

Our postdoctoral appointments are for one year, renewable for a second year and pay a stipend amount of \$26,200 to \$27,600 per annum. We provide employee benefits, including incoming travel and moving expenses. Candidates no more than three years past their Ph.D. are invited to apply. U.S. Citizenship is required.

Send your resume in confidence to:

Madeline Lucas, DIV 84-AT
Personnel Services Division
Los Alamos National Laboratory
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87545

University of California
LOS ALAMOS
An Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer

Send resume and references to Russ Davis, Ocean Research Division #30, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, La Jolla, CA 92093 by April 30, 1984.
The University of California, San Diego is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.

GEOCHEMIST

OAK RIDGE NATIONAL LABORATORY'S Environmental Sciences Division is seeking applicants in the following areas: (1) *Geochemical Modeling* and (2) *Environmental Geochemistry*. The Environmental Sciences Division is a multidisciplinary organization with research activities ranging from fundamental investigations to design and evaluation of mitigative actions for environmental problems. Successful applicants will be expected to work with hydrologists, geologists, and soil scientists as well as other geochemists in coordinated programs. Ongoing major programs include waste management-related studies and transport and fate of trace substances. Also, growth in global biogeochemistry has begun.

Candidates should have a Ph.D. in geochemistry or an advanced degree with experience. Emphasis on scholarly achievement and publications will be expected. U.S. citizenship is required.

GROUNDWATER HYDROLOGIST

OAK RIDGE NATIONAL LABORATORY'S Environmental Sciences Division is also seeking groundwater hydrology candidates with an interest in applied research and experience in carrying out groundwater investigation and evaluations for groundwater contamination problems. Expertise in geophysical techniques and/or aquifer testing would be a plus.

Candidates should have a Ph.D. or an advanced degree with experience. Emphasis is on academic achievement and timely publication of new information. U.S. citizenship is required.

ORNL offers an excellent salary and benefits package and a generous relocation program plus a stimulating working environment and superb facilities.

Qualified candidates should forward resume, three letters of recommendation, academic transcripts, and salary requirements to:

Mr. J. T. Atherton
Technical Employment Manager
Oak Ridge National Laboratory
Post Office Box X
Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37831

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

Ocean Turbulence/Oregon State University. Join us in studying turbulence in equatorial waters! A postdoctoral position is available at Oregon State University in a project entitled "Turbulent Transport in TROPIC HEAT". The successful applicant will assume a major share of the responsibility for deployment of vertical profiling ("microstructure") instruments on the first TROPIC HEAT cruise in November 1984 and then will share responsibility for scientific analysis of the data obtained. The starting date is nominally 1 August 1984, but is somewhat negotiable. Starting salary is \$26,000 yearly. Applicants must have a Ph.D. in the physical sciences or engineering and must be capable of performing independent research on oceanic turbulence. Applications must be received by 31 March 1984 by:

Douglas R. Caldwell
College of Oceanography
Oregon State University
Corvallis, OR 97331.

Oregon State University is an affirmative action/ equal opportunity employer and complies with section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

Howard University/Graduate Faculty Position.

The Department of Geology/Geography invites applications for a tenure track position in geochemistry at rank of Graduate Associate Professor beginning August 1984. Position involves development of graduate research program at Master's level. Specialization in environmental geochemistry/geochemical geology desired. Send letter of application, resume and names of three references to: Dr. David Schwartzman, Department of Geology/Geography, Howard University, Washington, DC 20064.

Research Scientist. Major University in Southern California has opening for research scientist in experimental deep upper mantle petrology, both synthetic and natural systems. Research to characterize mineralogy and chemical constitution of the lithosphere. Salary \$1,400 per month. Candidate must have Ph.D. in geology and be able to utilize piston-cylinder devices and electron microprobe analysis. Send resume to: Box 021, American Geophysical Union, 2000 Florida Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009.

CHIEF SCIENTIST BUREAU OF METEOROLOGY RESEARCH CENTRE MELBOURNE - AUSTRALIA SALARY \$A55050

Applications for the position of Chief Scientist to lead the recently created Bureau of Meteorology Research Centre (BMRC) are invited from scientists with an established record of personal research achievement and leadership in an appropriate field of science. The Chief Scientist will be responsible for the leadership, scientific direction and coordination of the research programs of the BMRC and will be encouraged to promote active collaboration with appropriate divisions of the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (CSIRO), universities and other institutions, both in Australia and overseas, conducting research in relevant areas.

GENERAL

The Bureau of Meteorology is established within the Commonwealth Department of Science and Technology and has a total staff of approximately 1 700 located throughout Australia. The Bureau, as the national meteorological authority, is responsible for the provision of meteorological services throughout Australia and its territories and for the conduct of meteorological research. To meet these diverse responsibilities it operates modern facilities, many at the forefront of technology, including a major centralized computing installation.

Following a recent reorganisation the Bureau will be substantially upgrading its meteorological research role through the establishment of the BMRC which will operate as an essentially self contained research institute. It is proposed that the Centre will be staffed by a mix of Research Scientist and Meteorologist classifications with appropriate internal computing, administrative and technical support. Its role will be to serve as a national meteorological research facility. In this context the purpose of the BMRC will be the advancement of meteorological science with emphasis on improved understanding of Australian weather and climate and improvement in the quality of the Bureau's services.

A salary of \$55050 will be offered to the successful applicant. Current salaries are adjusted half-yearly to account for general community cost of living increases.

CONDITIONS

The successful applicant will be offered an initial fixed term engagement for an agreed period as Chief of the BMRC. Re-engagement for a further period may be available. Appointment to an appropriate permanent position within the Bureau may also be available to the successful applicant should the initial term appointment of Chief of BMRC not be renewed.

Conditions of service include 4 weeks' annual recreation leave, cumulative sick leave, 3 months' long service leave after 10 years, an annual leave loading and a comprehensive superannuation scheme. Assistance with removal costs will also be available, if required.

Telephone enquiries may be directed to: Dr D J Gauntlett, Deputy Director (Research and Systems) Telephone: Melbourne 669 4371

Applications stating full personal and professional details and the names of at least three referees should reach:

Director of Meteorology
PO Box 1289K
MELBOURNE Vic 3001
AUSTRALIA

by 30 April 1984

RESEARCH ASSOCIATE IN COMPUTING AND ELECTRONIC INSTRUMENTATION

Responsibilities and Qualifications:

Develop and maintain computer and electronic hardware and software for the laboratories of the Department of Geology. Design and service electronic gear, in interface computers with other instruments, keep-up with changes in solid state science. BS/MS in Electrical Engineering, Computer Science, Solid State Science or equivalent.

Salary:

\$36,000 to \$45,000 depending on qualifications, prior experience, and potential for development with the Department's teaching/research programs.

Date Available:

Open immediately. Will accept resumes including names of three references who can meaningfully comment on the applicant's abilities, through April 30, 1984 or until suitable candidate is found. Forward to:

Employment Manager
Personnel Department
Texas A&M University
YMCA Building
College Station, TX 77843.

Information about the position:

Dr. M. C. Gilbert
409-845-2464

An Equal Opportunity Employer.

COMPUTER PROGRAMMER/ OPERATOR Sea-going

Experienced computer engineer or senior technician needed to take responsibility for operating and maintaining geophysical data logging and integrated navigation computers, and for interfacing with project computers aboard world-ranging research vessel. Trouble shooting to the Board level required.

Candidates should have experience in FORTRAN and Assembly languages (Data General & IBM/PC preferred; other Assembly languages considered). College degree or equivalent. Position is available immediately.

Interested candidates should call or write:

Marine Science Coordinator's Office
Lamont-Doherty
Geological Observatory
of Columbia University
Palisades, New York 10964
914-359-2900 extension 367.

Columbia University is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer.

FACULTY POSITION

Geological Engineering Program
Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering
Washington State University

The Geological Engineering Program at Washington State University has a tenure-track faculty position at the assistant/associate professor level in the area(s) of geohydrology and/or borehole geophysics. A Ph.D. is required and the ideal candidate will have a background combining both areas.

Geohydrology: A strong background in the geological sciences and a high level of proficiency in numerical modeling is highly desirable. **Geophysical:** A strong background in borehole geophysics with interest in geohydrology and evaluation of geotechnical properties of rock is highly desirable.

The successful applicant will teach undergraduate and graduate level courses in geohydrology and/or geophysics and be expected to take over an established research program involving graduate students. Professional registration, or qualifications to obtain such registration, is desirable. Qualified applicants should send a resume, copies of undergraduate and graduate transcripts, and at least three letters of recommendation to: Dr. Surinder K. Bhagat, Chairperson, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Washington State University, Pullman, Washington 99164-2910 by April 7, 1984. Washington State University is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer.

